

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05829 030553Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /096 W

----- 106436

R 030510Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5390

INFORUMTBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 5563

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5829

DEPT ALSO PASS AID

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EFIN, LA

SUBJECT: LAO GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN'S WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE,  
OCTOBER 2

1. OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG, SECSTATE FOR INFORMATION AND  
SPOKESMAN FOR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION,  
HAD LITTLE NEWS AT HIS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2,  
ALTHOUGH HE SAID CABINET HAD MET FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF  
HOURS PREVIOUS DAY.

2. ONLY ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE FOLLOWING:

A. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND MINISTERS  
OF DEFENSE, PTT AND PUBLIC HEALTH WOULD CONSTITUTE  
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 05829 030553Z

"GOVERNMENT" (I.E., CABINET) DELEGATION TO OPENING OF

SPECIAL SESSION OF JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 3. (COMMENT: SPECIAL SESSION IS TO BE  
FOLLOWED BY A REGULAR SESSION FROM OCTOBER 5 TO 9.  
WE ASSUME THIS IS ONE MORE ACT PREPARATORY TO THE  
MAJOR CELEBRATIONS IN VIENG SAY AND VIENTIANE ON  
OCTOBER 12 OF THE "30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAO INDEPENDENCE".)

B. CABINET AGREED TO RECEIVE A MISSION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF IMF AND IBRD, "TO STUDY PROJECTS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." (COMMENT: THIS DECISION HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO FEOF DONOR COUNTRIES, AND IT SOUNDS AS THOUGH PGNU IS TRYING TO SHIFT EMPHASIS OF IMF REVIEW CALLED FOR IN 1975 FEOF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.)

C. TWO LAO MONKS WILL DEPART FOR MOSCOW OCTOBER 4  
TO ATTEND MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN BUDDHISTS.

D. PGNU HAS DECIDED TO INVITE "GROUP OF RUSSIAN VARIETY ENTERTAINERS" TO PERFORM IN VIENTIANE IN CONNECTION WITH OCTOBER 12 CELEBRATION AND PRC SOCCER AND TENNIS PLAYERS TO APPEAR DURING THAT LUANG FAIR IN NOVEMBER. (COMMENT: PGNU IS OBVIOUSLY BEING EVEN-HANDED AND IS STEERING SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION INTO PEACEFUL CHANNELS. A RUSSIAN SOCCER TEAM AND, IF WE REMEMBER CORRECTLY, CHINESE ENTERTAINERS HAVE VISITED LAOS IN RECENT MONTHS.)

3. ONLY QUESTION FROM PRESS CORPS WAS WHETHER VIENTIANE REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE HAD ASKED PGNU TO SUPPRESS THE LAO UNITY PARTY OF ARRESTED POLITICAL MAVERICK BONG SOUVANNAVONG (VIENTIANE 5799, NOTAL) AND TO CONFISCATE HIS PRINTING PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS. OUDAY -- HIMSELF A COUSIN OF THE UNFORTUNATE BONG -- SAID CABINET HAD NOT DISCUSSED MATTER. (COMMENT: WE QUESTION VERACITY OF ANSWER. IN ANY CASE, REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE SPOKESMEN HAD EARLIER TOLD PRESS THEY HAD MADE SUCH REQUESTS; ONE WAS APPARENTLY BACKDATED TO SEPTEMBER 27, THE DAY BEFORE BONG'S ARREST.)

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 05829 030553Z

4. IN RELATED STATEMENT, LPF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR JUSTICE SOMVANG SENGSAHIT IS QUOTED IN OCTOBER 3 ISSUE OF VERNACULAR XAT LAO AS SAYING THAT BONG SOUVANNAVONG'S PARTY WOULD NOT HAVE DARED TO ACT AS IT HAS IN THE ABSENCE OF OUTSIDE BACKING; "IT SERVED THE INTERESTS OF THE CIA."

5. IN SAME INTERVIEW SOMVANG SAID THERE WAS NO NEED  
FOR REPLACEMENT OF KHAMKING SOUVANLASAY (WHO FLED IN LATE  
JUNE) AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE BECAUSE EVERYTHING WAS  
FUNCTIONING "WONDERFULLY" AT THE MINISTRY AND BECAUSE  
GENERAL ELECTIONS AND THUS THE FORMATION OF A NEW  
CABINET ARE COMING "CLOSER TO REALIZATION EVERY DAY."  
(COMMENT: REFERENCE IS TO ELECTIONS REPORTEDLY PLANNED  
FOR APRIL 1, 1976.)  
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## Message Attributes

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